

Centennial Moments

**A Collection of History and
Memories In Celebration of
the First Hundred Years
of
Ursinus
United Church of Christ
1899-1999**

Compiled by Jean C. Puckett

Centennial Moments

This collection of history and memories was presented to the congregation of Ursinus United Church of Christ during Sunday morning worship services for the church's Centennial Celebration in the year of our Lord 1999.

The information was collected from old Consistory minutes, annual reports, church records and from the memory of long-time members. It was compiled and read to the congregation each Sunday morning by Jean C. Puckett.

The booklet was presented to the members of Ursinus at the culmination of the Centennial Celebration on Heritage Day, October 17, 1999.

Centennial Moments



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CENTENNIAL MOMENT

January 3

From "*A Story of Southern Synod of Evangelical and Reformed Church*"

The town of Rockwell, NC was an important focal point as early as 1838, and for two very good reasons. It is the site of the old "rock well," a favorite camping place on the old "wagon road" leading from Salisbury to Cheraw, South Carolina. It is also the area commonly known in earlier days as "Courthouse Hill," so named because at one time it was considered the location of Rowan County's court center.

When in 1890 the Yadkin Railroad was laid through southeast Rowan County, only two houses stood in the neighborhood. One of them was owned by J. W. Peeler and the other by Eli Holshouser. (The Peeler home stood on the site of Citizens Bank, next door to the present church building and the Holshouser home stood on Depot Street, across the railroad, on the left before Liberty Street).

It is understandable that people living in the vicinity were concerned about moral and religious training for their families. The Preamble to the Constitution of Ursinus Reformed Church reflects the situation:

There was no church in Rockwell, and for some years there had been a great need for a place of worship and a place where Sunday School could be held.

A few years earlier, a meeting of surrounding neighbors and members of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches was held, with a view of putting up a union chapel in which services could be held and Sunday School carried on, but the effort failed, and for several years the case seemed to be hopeless.

The Methodists had previously secured a lot on which to build a church, but the field naturally belonged to the Reformed Church and the Methodist Church decided to hold off if the Reformed people would build.

During the spring of 1899, a list of subscriptions was started, and the encouragement was sufficient to justify a beginning. So, during the month of August, work was begun, and during the following winter the church was enclosed and services were held twice a month.

This work was under the care of Rev. W. H. McNairy, pastor of the East Rowan Charge. He canvassed part of the Reformed Church of North Carolina Classis for funds with good results.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

January 10

Dr. Harvey. A. M. Holshouser became pastor on March 21, 1922. The church, having grown both in numbers and in programs offered, was ready to develop plans for more adequate facilities. The pastor along with H. W. Barnhardt (father of Marguerite Misenheimer) was authorized to canvas the people in the interest of a new church. By February 17, 1924, enough money had been raised to insure the project, so a committee was appointed with instructions "to secure plans, specifications, etc. for the new building estimated to cost \$25,000.

The committee was composed of:

J. M. Holshouser

Sons – Dr. Leslie Holshouser

Dave Holshouser

Daughter – Elsie Holshouser Lentz

(all deceased former members)

H. W. Barnhardt

Daughter- Marguerite B. Misenheimer

Grandson – Jimmy Misenheimer

J. B. McCombs

G. T. Holshouser

Son – Chester Holshouser

H. W. Bost

Son – C. A. Bost

Grandchildren – Spencer Bost, Hugh Bost,

Jackie Bost Taylor

Great-grandchildren – Hugh Bost, Jr. Jody Bost Mease

Susan Giessler

Great-great-grandchildren - Wendy Bost, Eric Bost

G. W. Peeler

Sons – George, John Calvin & Ray Peeler

Daughter - Sarah Catherine

C. T. Misenheimer

Daughter-in-law – Lois Misenheimer

Granddaughters – Rachel Lapham & Patty Dunn

Great-grandchildren – Shannon, R. J. & Cameron Lapham

Amanda & Katie Dunn

Since the new church was to be erected on the old site, church services were held in the local high school building in the interim. Taking leave of the old church building on March 30, 1924, the congregation began operating comfortably in the basement of the building. The church was complete and ready for dedication on May 31, 1926.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

January 17

From minutes of Congregational meeting July 27, 1924:

A special meeting of the congregation was held to ascertain the wishes of the membership in regard to securing immediate funds to finance construction.

Object of the meeting was stated as follows – The building committee has come to the place where they will have to stop work on the new building unless some way is provided for immediate funds.

A plan was suggested whereby the membership might secure from the bank the necessary amount of their pledges to keep the construction of the new building moving on.

After some discussion, the congregation decided that the execution of the new sanctuary not be stopped, and authorized the building committee to perfect some plan through which funds would be available to finish the wall, cover the building and put down the basement floor.

Immediately following this, the building committee and Consistory were called to meet in joint session on Monday night, July 28, 1924.

Resolution Passed:

Resolved that the trustees of Ursinus Reformed Church, Rockwell, NC be authorized to endorse any individual note which has been or may be given as a subscription towards erection of said church. Said endorsement being authorized in order that notes may be discounted at any bank.

Resolved further that when said notes be discounted, the entire Consistory and building committee shall be considered as responsible for the payment of same.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

January 24

The first worship service held in the current sanctuary was Nov. 1, 1925. Membership at the time was 135 communicant members and 204 members of the Sunday School.

Meeting of Consistory March 24, 1929:

Motion prevailed that members listed be notified that the time of year has arrived for the church to make a report to Classis as to church attendance and the financial support of its members. They do not meet the standard as required by the church for a member in good standing and that they will be given until the month of April to get themselves in good standing.

Motion prevailed that the pastor, secretary and treasurer be made a committee to see the delinquents.

Letter to Delinquents

Dear Sir:

At a recent meeting of the Consistory of Ursinus Reformed Church, your name was brought up as not showing as much interest in church work as you should.

There are two things that make a good church member. First, church attendance and taking part in church activities. Second, helping financially.

Now if you are too far away to be present at church, or if your work is of such a nature that you cannot attend church, you surely can help the financial matters of your church by paying regularly toward its support.

The Consistory gives you the month of April to get yourself in good standing.

By order of the Consistory of Ursinus Reformed Church

(So far, I have found no record of how the delinquent members responded-J.P.)

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

January 31

Excerpts from Consistory Minutes

December 1924 – Congregational Meeting

The congregation voted to change the by-laws of the church to have 6 Elders and 6 Deacons instead of four each. Three Elders and three Deacons would be elected annually and serve a term of two years.

August 1930

The leak in the basement was discussed and a committee consisting of J. W. Peeler, Hoy Fisher and R. W. Brown was appointed to see to the draining of the basement.

November 1930.

The water bill for the parsonage was brought up again and was found to be \$1.00 per month, but did not decide who would pay the bill.

March 23, 1932

Motion prevailed that the pastor's salary for the year 1933 be \$1,000 and that trust fund be used to provide payment.

March 1940

By prevailing motion, the trustees were authorized to fix basement which in rainy weather fills with water.

March 1940

The Consistory decided to hold Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at which time the Rite of Confirmation will take place. The pastor recommended the following be admitted into membership. Mrs. Fred Rinehardt, Robert Kluttz, James Lee Holshouser, Ray Brown Jr., Jaqueline Bost, Claude Beaver, J. W. Shuping, Sarah C. Peeler, Irvin McCulloh, Jaqueline McCulloch and Dorothy McCulloch.

October 1941

A motion prevailed in case of emergency to permit soldiers the use of the church basement for sleeping quarters and other accommodations.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

February 7

Catawba College is, from all reports, a well respected, well endowed, educational institution. Apparently this was not always the case.

From Minutes of the Consistory December 30, 1917

At a meeting of the Consistory of Ursinus Reformed Church, this date, the matter of the future of Catawba College was discussed and the following resolution was adopted.

We, the Consistory of Ursinus Reformed Church regret the deplorable situation of Catawba College and realize that if the Reformed Church is to grow and fulfill her God-given mission to the Southland, we must have an educational institution within our land. We urge the Trustees of Catawba College to continue the institution if at all possible. We open our doors to an official representative of the college for a systematic canvas and promise our support. We would prefer an apportionment for each congregation for their proportional part of the debt.

We instruct our delegates to vote for the above action at the meeting to be held in Salisbury on January 10, 1918, unless in their judgment, some plan is presented which they think is better.

J. W. Peeler, Sec.

Rev. J. A. Koons, Pastor

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

February 14

Ursinus church has a long association with Nazareth Children's Home. The early concerns for orphan children were expressed at a meeting of the Classis of North Carolina, annual session, May 1-4, 1901, at a time when Ursinus was barely two years old.

The Classis adopted this resolution, "Whereas, it is the sense of this Classis that the establishment of an orphan's home would be a most fitting twentieth century monument for our church and that it can be done through co-operation and systematic effort.

The Reformed Church in North Carolina in 1901 was not large; fifteen ministers and fifteen Elders representing fifteen pastoral charges, (Ursinus was part of East Rowan charge) and 46 congregations with 3,416 members.

In 1899, two years earlier, a committee of three had been appointed to investigate the feasibility of the establishment of an orphan's home. The committee, Revs. J. M. L. Lyerly, H. A. M. Holshouser, and J. D. Andrew committed the Reformed people to the establishment of a home with this condition, "that pledges on easy payments be made, said pledges to be valid only in case as much as three thousand dollars are thus obligated."

One year later in 1902, this report to Classis: We beg to report the following returns in pledges: East Rowan Charge \$283.00, Concord Charge \$287.00, New Gilead charge \$400.00, Central Rowan Charge \$1,306.00, and Catawba Charge \$71.00. A total of \$2,347.00.

Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly, pastor of central Rowan Charge serving 4 small rural churches, was appointed agent to contact other churches and reported additional pledges to bring the total to \$3,824.40.

The Classis voted, by a majority of one vote, to proceed with the plans for the orphan's home.

The home received certificate of incorporation by N. C. Legislature on October 30, 1903.

161/2 acres of land was purchased in Crescent, N.C. In 1906, the adjoining McNairy farm of 85 acres was purchased. In December 1906, Miss Mary P. Abbot and four children moved into the McNairy home. On Oct. 12, three more applications were received from Cabarrus County. The Nazareth Orphan's Home was now a reality.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

February 21

Facts and Figures from 50th Anniversary Book of Nazareth Children's Home

Last Sunday, our centennial moment was about the founding of Nazareth Children's Home and its early years. Today we will share with you some recollections of how Ursinus and other Reformed Churches helped the home continue its ministry. Most of its funding comes from endowments, gifts, etc., but the most popular way to raise money was Anniversary Day or "Orphan's Day." Many of you can remember working in the Ursinus "stand" or "booth" on Orphan's Day, selling food and drink. This was a big day in the life of the home and in the lives of many Reformed churches in the area. The first Orphan's Day was held on September 12, 1907 with 500 – 600 people present and \$400 raised for the home. Anniversary Day has been a yearly event since 1907, with the exception of several years of polio outbreak and other health concerns. The only records available at this writing show that during the period of 1951-55, Ursinus contributed \$2,145.00 to the home. During the same period 71 church of Southern Synod contributed \$77,241.54, an average of \$1,087.91 per congregation.

Of special interest are these comments about the 6th Anniversary Day – August 7, 1913. "This year an excursion train was run from Greensboro, bringing hundreds of Reformed people. Trains were run from Burlington and from Lenoir to Crescent from 1913 to 1917.

Here are a few excerpts from Consistory minutes relating to Ursinus and Nazareth Children's Home:

September 29, 1935

Motion prevailed to hold a special offering for the orphan's home on October 6th. This is to take the place of Anniversary Day, which has been cancelled on account of the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the county and state.

The Consistory adopted a resolution to turn the stands at the orphanage over to the home and let those in charge sell concessions in the stands for Anniversary Day. Also the Consistory recommends to the Sunday School that it pledge one dollar per member, per year, as a whole, to be contributed to the home on each anniversary.

August 1942

Two cases of crushed pineapple left over from the Crescent picnic to be stored in the basement of the church for use next year. (*As I understand, Ursinus was famous for pineapple sherbet.*)

December 1952

Motion prevailed that we pay \$100 to the Orphan's Home treasurer for a new car for Tom Moose, the superintendent.

November 5, 1950

Motion prevailed that we have a Christmas offering at the midnight service and give it to the Orphan's Home.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

February 28

In 1899, when Ursinus Reformed Church was organized, it was placed in a charge with Grace Lower Stone and Bethany Reformed churches. After Lower Stone became self-supporting, Ursinus was in a charge with Bethany and St. Lukes. To be a part of a charge meant, among other things, that we shared the services and expenses of the pastor with the other churches involved.

As Ursinus prospered, more thought was given to the prospect of becoming a self-supporting congregation.

Under the rules of the Reformed Church and later the rules of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, an individual church needed the permission and support of the synod before going out on its on.

According to the following excerpts from congregational and Consistory minutes, Ursinus began its quest for self-support status in 1947, while Rev. Karl Flocken was pastor.

March 16, 1947 Congregational Meeting

Recommendation of the Consistory that when proper arrangements can be made for St. Luke's and Bethany (Lyerly Memorial) churches, Ursinus Church shall become self-supporting. Motion that this recommendation of Consistory be approved and adopted was carried with all members standing.

March 16, 1947 Consistory meeting

A petition to Southern Synod that Ursinus church become self-supporting.

February 1, 1948 Consistory meeting

Called meeting of the Consistory met at the church on the above date for discussing and finding out why the church had not heard anything on the self-support petition sent to Synod.

February 23, 1948 Consistory Meeting

Visitors were Rev. Lonnie Carpenter, Rev. Will Lyerly, and Prof. Dearborn (later to become President of Catawba College). The meeting was turned over to the President of Southern Synod. Discussion was then opened on our church going self-supporting. Remarks were then heard from all sides and all angles. Motion prevailed that Ursinus Evangelical and Reformed Church demands to be granted self-support by June 1, 1948.

September 5, 1948

Consistory met for a called meeting on the above date. At this time the letter on our going self-support was read, from the president of Southern Synod.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

March 7, 1999

Before we have our Centennial moment, I would like to give some credit where credit is due. The minutes of Consistory from the year 1899 to year 1958 were all recorded on lined notebook paper in longhand and are very difficult to read. A former pastor, Rev. Guy Fisher typed all those minutes and placed them in one book. It is from this book that the information for our centennial moments has come. We are indebted to Rev. Fisher for what must have taken weeks of transcribing and typing.

The life of any congregation of Christ's church is made up of events that are very important and will be long remembered and of a myriad of smaller events, which seem unimportant, but nevertheless tell much about the congregation.

Today's Centennial Moment is a collection of events from the first 42 years of the church's life. Next week we will share some events of later years.

November 1914

Ordered that we pay Paul Holshouser .75 for sawing wood.

Ordered that the trustee be authorized to purchase pipe for the other stove from Columbus

Holshouser.

Ordered that a committee of two be appointed to act with a committee from the Lutheran Church to get a price on a grave tent.

January 1915

Learning of the destitute circumstances of Mrs. Parker and family, the Consistory asked the women of the church to provide for their needs for the coming week and report the condition of the family to the Sunday School.

March 1922

The Consistory decided to sell family burial plots in the cemetery (18'x18') for \$10, small lots for \$2.

July 1922

Pastor made inquiry of Consistory whether there be any irregularity among members of our church, none reported. The Holy Communion was celebrated at this time.

September 1922

At a quarterly meeting of Consistory no acts of inconstancy were reported of any members of our church.

(Evidently, the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the U. S. required that the Pastor make inquiry about the conduct of church members before Communion was celebrated. Any member whose conduct had been inappropriate for the Christian lifestyle would be given opportunity to make things right before receiving Communion.)

June 1924

Consistory met in regular session. No business was presented. Adjournment.

December 1939

It was left to the discretion of the pastor whether or not to wear a gown in the pulpit. Rev. Tosh was pastor as of Nov. 1, 1939.

January 1941

Spencer Bost was appointed to secure prices on law mower, push or motor driven, for the cemetery.

L. C. Holshouser's Sunday School class is responsible for keeping the cemetery clean this summer.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

March 14

Last Sunday's Centennial Moment was made up of excerpts from Consistory minutes which recorded seemingly unimportant events. These events, though not earthshaking, tell much about congregational life. Today's centennial moment will share excerpts from Consistory minutes recorded after 1939.

December 1940

The Consistory adopted a budget of \$2100 with the pastor's salary being \$1250 and benevolences totaling \$487.13.

July 1941

The Sunday School is paying \$5 to anyone who desires to attend John's River Camp.

July 1942

Consistory authorized trustees to caulk windows if sufficient funds are in trustee fund to pay for same.

March 1943

Use of weekly bulletins for worship service was discussed.

April 1943

The pastor reported furnishing each boy in uniform a copy of the booklet 100 Days of Spiritual Food. Gave sacrament of communion to boys leaving for service. *According to Consistory minutes, Ursinus had sent 22 young men into military service as of April 1943.*

June 1944

Motion prevailed to pay Tom L. Linker \$12.50 per month for sexton's services for the year.

February 1946

Motion prevailed that proper recognition be given in a church service for the 58th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. John L. Fisher.

May 1948

Call meeting of the Consistory met to discuss the tennis court.

August 1949

The following rules to govern use of our tennis court were adopted:

1. For the use of members of Ursinus church and their guests
2. Expenses shall be met by voluntary offerings
3. It shall not be used during any church services
4. Conduct shall be in keeping with good manners and the use of church property

September 1949

The recreation committee was told to get an estimate on fencing, lighting and equipping the recreation area for basketball.

August 1953

A called meeting of Consistory to decide when to have a congregational meeting to consider plans for the proposed Educational Building to be built where the tennis court now stands.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

March 21

Down through their 100-year history, Ursinus church people have always considered music to be an invaluable means of expressing praise and adoration for almighty God. Both the congregation and choirs have used hymns, anthems, chorales, cantatas, and gospel songs – some accompanied, some a capella- to express a worshipful attitude toward God.

For almost 60 of those 100 years, we have enjoyed the mighty strains of our Moller Pipe Organ, as it added its voice to our music.

Today's Centennial Moment will reflect excerpts from Consistory minutes concerning the organ.

APRIL 20, 1941

At a called meeting, J. Yorke Peeler reported on campaign for funds for the organ and furnace. \$1904 was raised among the Consistory. A motion prevailed to place the idea of this fund before the congregation with a goal of \$5000. C. A. Bost, Mrs. T. L. Linker, Mrs. G. W. Peeler and Mrs. R. W. Brown were the canvassing committee and Rev. Aaron Tosh was pastor.

JUNE 1941

L. C. Holshouser was appointed financial secretary of the organ and furnace fund. A report showed a total of \$3,512 was collected.

AUGUST 1941

A motion prevailed to instruct trustees to borrow money on Cannon Mill stock, at the rate of 4% to pay for the organ and furnace.

SEPTEMBER 1941

The organ committee reported that work was completed on the organ and that it was released. An organ committee consisting of J. Yorke Peeler, C. A. Bost and C. M. Barrier along with Mrs. J. Yorke Peeler, be appointed to take up any matters pertaining to use of the organ by those who wish to practice or otherwise use the organ.

MAY 1942

Motion prevailed that a committee be appointed to help the special treasurer on collections of pledges on the organ.

SEPTEMBER 1942

Motion prevailed that no charge be made to Sarah Catherine Peeler, during the next three months for the use of the pipe organ and that definite plans are to be worked out with the organ committee at the regular meeting of Consistory in October.

NOVEMBER 1942

Motion prevailed that we give Miss Margaret Palmer permission to use the pipe organ on Thursday and Sunday afternoons, subject to Mrs. J. Yorke Peeler's permission.

AUGUST 1943

Motion prevailed that the organ treasurer be instructed to pay off balance due on organ on August 20 and that any remaining amount needed to make full payment be paid equally by Sunday School treasurer and church treasurer.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

April 18

Even a casual study of the history of Ursinus church will show that the financial condition of the church at any given time had a lot to do with the extent of its ministry. In the Consistory minutes, one finds financial reports, discussions of ways to raise more funds, plans for dealing with shortfalls, every-member canvases, pledges met and pledges unmet. Prior to the early 1960's, almost every church organization had its own funds and there are many entries in Consistory minutes of 'borrowing Peter to pay Paul.'

But in 1963, the church began to move toward something called a Unified Budget. Rev. Jim Cress was pastor, Dr. L. C. Holshouser was president of Consistory, his son-in-law Bobby Beaver was chairman of the stewardship committee and the church had 196 confirmed members.

February 1963

Chairman Bobby Beaver, stewardship committee, reported on a study of ways to improve stewardship and of an upcoming discussion of the Unified Budget plan.

March 1963

Stewardship committee decided upon further study of the Unified Budget plan.

April 1963

Stewardship committee continuing work and study on Unified Budget plan.

June 1963

A letter will be sent to each member home explaining the Unified Budget and a copy will be placed in the *Ursinus Visitor*.

September 1963

The preliminary figures for the Unified budget are \$15,327 of which \$1623 was the organizational budget.

October 1963

Moved that the proposed Unified Budget be recommended to the congregation.

December 1963

Treasurer Bob Greene reported balance on hand as of December 15 was \$6.34. all items in the budget having been paid except three.

January 1964

Past President Dr. Holshouser stated that a new venture, the Unified Budget, will be tried this year and it will be a success if we make it so.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

May 2

Today's Centennial Moment has to do with the pastorate of Rev. James R. Cress, who came to us from Brick Church at Whitsett, N. C. On June 24, 1962, the congregation voted unanimously to issue a call to Rev. Cress. On August 12, 1962 Rev. Cress attended his first Consistory meeting as pastor of Ursinus Church. At this same meeting, the Consistory accepted Anna Cress' letter of transfer from Brick Church.

Jim must have made a great first impression because the most immediate actions of Consistory were to install a new washing machine in the parsonage and to extend his vacation time to two weeks.

It is very difficult, almost impossible, to do justice to a seven year pastorate in a few moments. So I will emphasize what I recall as well as what Consistory minutes record as high points of those years. You will all understand that no one person can report on the many close personal friendships that developed, not the sharing of both good times and bad. No one person can report on the many occasions the Cresses led us to seriously and prayerfully consider what our Christian responsibility might be in a given situation.

However, there are events and emphases that are a matter of record and I will recall some of them with you.

Rev. Cress quickly made known his interest in providing quality programs for the youth of the church and giving them hands-on opportunities to practice what they had learned.

Perhaps because of our interest in young people or perhaps of a perceived need for such a program Rev. Cress, along with Carolyn Puckett, Jackie Taylor and Alice Linker organized and operated a public kindergarten. This program ran very successfully until the public schools offered kindergarten programs in the early 70s.

In the early 60s, Rev. Cress led us in the adoption of the unified budget plan which we still use 35 years later and in 1964, he worked with us in a revision of our Constitution and By-laws.

During his pastorate, Ursinus shared in the funding of the Catawba College Chapel and in additions to Lancaster Theological Seminary.

During the early years of Rev. Cress' ministry, a movement appeared on the horizon and became known as the Civil Rights Movement. This movement called for drastic changes in our social structure and was soon to traumatize the lives of both racial majorities and racial minorities.

Rev. Cress, showing unusual courage of conviction, led us through our misconceptions, prejudices and mostly unfounded fears to a serious consideration of what our Christian faith had to say.

During the last several years of his pastorate here, Rev. Cress was instrumental in organizing the Rowan Cooperative Christian Ministry, which as the name implies, focused the combined resources of many Christian fellowships onto the needs of the less fortunate.

In 1969, Rev. Cress left Ursinus to become director of RCCM and was largely responsible for its success.

So we said good-bye to Jim, Anna, Karen, Jennifer, Janet, Philip, Richard and Theresa.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

May 9

The year was 1953, the month was August, the day was the 29th. The Consistory of Ursinus Evangelical and Reformed Church met in a called meeting at high noon on a Friday. Two Consistory members out of eleven, who were present at that meeting nearly 40 years ago, are still with us today. They are A. L. Linker and Spencer Bost.

The purpose of the meeting was to authorize a call meeting of the congregation in order to have the members vote on the plans for the proposed educational building. Also the members would discuss the financing of the project.

The called meeting of the congregation was set for Sunday, Sept. 30, 1953. At that meeting Mrs. Joe Johnson explained the proposed educational building in great detail, the minutes record, and the congregation voted 87 to 5 to go ahead with the project with an estimated cost of \$30,000.

Two stipulations were added at the recommendation of the finance committee.

1. That work on the building not be started until half the money was raised.
2. That Consistory president R. W. Brown appoint 15 additional members to the finance committee and that they be authorized to launch an "all out" visitation financial canvass.

Not much is recorded in Consistory minutes concerning the project until December of the same year, when Consistory voted to open a savings account with the Educational building funds.

Not another word about the project until May of 1955, when arrangements were made to insure the building and a decision was made to dedicate the building to Columbus Holshouser.

The actual dedication was delayed until the balance of the \$30,000 cost was paid. In August of 1955, the trustees were authorized to borrow \$14,500 to provide for the entire amount of \$30,000.

In October of 1955, the pastor Rev. Richard Cheek and the entire Consistory signed a letter of appreciation to C. A. Cozart for his efforts as supervisor of the new facility.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

May 16

Today's Centennial Moment is all about numbers. One of the first questions often asked about a church congregation is, "How many members do they have?" The size of the congregation does not always indicate the effectiveness of a church's ministry nor the commitment of its members, but size is one indicator. Ursinus has never been a large congregation, at least where compared to sister churches in the area with memberships of 300, 400, and even 600 members. But despite its comparatively small numbers, Ursinus has always maintained excellent facilities for worship and for study. This church has also provided a ministry surprisingly diverse in scope and tailored to meet both spiritual and physical needs of the community.

An earlier Centennial Moment reported that our church began services of worship in 1899 with nine members and was chartered in 1900 as a congregation of the Reformed Church with 10 members.

I could find no membership number reports for our early years, but we experienced steady growth and in 1944, Rev. Aaron Tosh reported 181 members. By 1954, Rev. Richard Cheek reported 225 members and growing. Our banner year must have been 1957, when Rev. Roy Whisenhut reported to Consistory 228 members, with average worship attendance of 150. Sunday School had an enrollment of 193 with 135 average attendance. When Rev. Whisenhut made his last report before resigning to accept another call, he reported 218 members. In 1963, Rev. Cress reported 186 members, and in 1964, 196 members. In 1970, at a time between pastors, our membership was reported as 193. In the 1970s and on into the 80s, Rev. Guy Fisher reported membership ranging from 213 to 221 and in 1982, he reported the average attendance at worship to be 108, the highest in 16 years.

Since the early 1980s, our membership has declined and now stands at 140 with average attendance at about 70. The Sunday School lists an enrollment of 54 with average attendance at 35.

Just as large numbers do not tell the whole story, neither do smaller numbers. We have maintained an effective and diverse caring ministry in the Rockwell area despite our declining membership. But it becomes more difficult as the decline continues. If we would like to attract other like-minded Christians to join with us in continuing to serve our Lord in this community, we must act. We must pray for growth, plan for growth and make it happen.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

May 23

One of the ways to determine the dedication and maturity of a church congregation is to look at the causes they have supported. The following list of causes is a matter of record, either from Consistory minutes or from annual report booklets. There are, no doubt, others not listed in either place.

This impressive list speaks well for the Ursinus congregation. Keep up the good work!

Catawba College (first mentioned in 1917)	Homeless Shelter
Nazareth Children's Home	Dial Help
Classical Apportionment (now OCWM & OGHS)	March of Dimes
John's River Valley Camp	Elon College
Home for the Aged (Mother's Day offering)	UCC Christmas Fund
Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds (BRAG)	American Heart Association
Various Church building funds	Habitat for Humanity
Scholarships to Catawba College	The Gideon Society
Emergency World Service (1946)	Battered Women's Shelter
Lancaster Theological Seminary	CROP Walk
Bible teacher at East Rowan High School	Historic Rockwell Foundation
International Christian University in Japan	Dial Help
New Church Building Campaign	NC Council of Churches
Traveling Missionary Project	Grants to Ministerial Students
New Home for the president of the Southern Synod	Homewood Home for the Aged
UCC Retirement Homes (New Life Campaign)	
Rockwell Inter-civic Recreation Program	
Rowan Cooperative Christian Ministry (now Rowan Helping Ministries)	

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

May 30

Ursinus United Church of Christ has been part of three different denominations in its one hundred-year history. Today's Centennial Moment will be a brief refresher course on how these changes came about.

In 1725, German Reformed immigrants established congregations in the U. S. They followed the beliefs and traditions of Calvin. In 1793, the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States was formed. In 1867, the name *German* was dropped from the title and in 1900, Ursinus Church was chartered as a Reformed Church.

In the early 1800s, German immigrants who followed the beliefs of Luther and the Reformed traditions came to the Midwest and established churches. In 1872, the German Evangelical Synod of North America was formed and in 1927 the name *German* was dropped from the synod title. In 1934, these two bodies united to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Ursinus was now a member of the E & R denomination. This group stressed liberty of conscience, the authority of the scriptures, and celebrated their common liberal German Protestant heritage.

In the 1620s, Puritans came to Massachusetts and began North American Congregationalism. Over the ensuing years, they were joined by Congregational Methodists, Evangelical Methodists, and German Congregationalists. They drew from Calvinists, Puritan and Congregational traditions in forming their religious beliefs.

In 1801, yet another Christian church was organized and the first Free Christian Church was organized in Vermont. By 1850, the church had grown and the American Christian Convention of Churches was formed in the northeast. In 1854, the Southern Christian Convention was formed and in 1922, the Christian Church was organized.

In 1931, these bodies united to form the Congregational Christian Church. They stressed congregational freedom and a continuing reformation

In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Church united to form the United Church of Christ. In 1958, Ursinus elected to be a member church of the UCC. This new denomination continued to stress liberty of conscience, the authority of the scriptures, congregational freedom and a continuing reformation. To these traditions, we have added a strong interest in uniting with other churches in fulfillment of Jesus Christ's prayer, "...that they all may be one."

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

June 6, 1999

The church has many leaders, with Jesus Christ as its head and the pastor as shepherd of the flock. In the German Reformed Church and also in the Evangelical and Reformed Church and in the United Church of Christ, the president of the Consistory is an important leader. Today I will try to list for you the names of persons who have served Ursinus in that capacity.

From 1899 through to 1927, the pastor was listed as presiding officer. In 1928, Mr. H. W. Barnhardt became the first layman to be president of Consistory. From 1928 until 1951, there were four other lay presidents: J. M. Holshouser, J. W. Peeler, J. Yorke Peeler, and Dr. L. C. Holshouser. However, during the majority of those 23 years, the pastor was presiding officer. In 1939, the Consistory made a decision that Rev. Tosh should be president, by virtue of his office as pastor. After 1951, there were no more pastors who served as president of the Consistory.

The following persons served as president of Consistory; some only one term, and some served several terms. (No records were found of 1966-69)

C. M. Barrier	Harold Earnhardt
R. W. Brown	Shearin Teague
Harold Barrier	Alan Culp
Ray Barnhardt	Randy Bingham
Dr. Robert Kluttz	Jean Puckett
Ray Peeler	Jay Culp
John L. Holshouser	Randall Giessler

Jackie Taylor served as the first and only female president (through 1999).

Since 1978, a period of twenty-one years, the Consistory president has been one or the other of only five persons until Randall Giessler was elected in 1999.

Have you hugged a Consistory president today?

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

June 13

One of the ways in which the church functions is through committees. There is a common joke going around stating that the way to really mess up a project is to give it to a committee. Sometimes that is true, but most of the time our appointed committees serve us very well. It would be difficult to carry on our ministry to this community without committees.

I thought it might be fun to recall some of these committees which serve by appointment and would not be considered to be one of the permanent committees.

Nominating committee

Flower committee

Decorating committee

Bible in East Rowan committee

Redecorate the Parsonage committee

Rail Polishing committee

Auditing committee

Committees to make special purchases: hymnals, hand bells, piano, carpet, etc.

Refurbish the Kitchen committee

Re-work the Constitution committee

Kindergarten committee

Waste Incinerator committee

Special Gifts committee

Heating & Air Conditioning Fund Raising committee

Gift for the Pastor committee

Handicap entrance committee

100th Anniversary committee

35th Anniversary committee

50th Anniversary committee

75th Anniversary committee

Various pulpit committees

Various committees to make rules for the use of church property

Many of you will surely be asked to serve on some future committee. Please say yes.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

June 27

Today's look back at the history of Ursinus church has to do with the Sunday School. We have "Improved ACME Sunday School Record" books dating from 1905 to the 70's. For some as yet unknown reason, the names of the scholars (as the students were called) are not recorded in many of the record books. I am using the year 1905 as my source of information, since it is the earliest book with the names recorded.

According to this record, the year ran from April 1905 to the end of March 1906. The Sunday School was held at 2:30 p.m. with opening exercises followed by class time. There were four Sunday School officers: Superintendent G. H. Peeler, who kept these records; assistant superintendent B. A. Fesperman; Secretary and Treasurer J. F. Fisher and assistant Secretary and Treasurer Pearl Goodman. There were seven classes with an average total enrollment of 87. The teachers were J. W. Peeler class No. 1 with 17 women; Allen Holshouser class No. 2 with 11 men. J. Worth Barhardt taught class No. 3 with 8 women. Class No. 4 had J. B. McCombs as teacher with 17 men. Class No. 5 had 9 men and women with B. A. Fesperman as teacher. Mrs. G. C. Holshouser, in class No. 6 taught 13 younger scholars and Mrs. Alice Fesperman taught 12 boys and girls in class No. 7. The adult classes had more students than the children's classes

Some other interesting facts are that out of 87 average total enrollment, the average attendance was 61. The largest offering was \$1.01 on June 18, 1905. On July 30, 1905, about this time of year, the hymns sung at the Sunday School opening were #17 "This Is My Father's World" and #147 "What If It Were Today?" The opening was led by Rev. Linn. The offering for the day was .42. All seven classes met although four teachers were listed as absent. The weather was fair and no visitors were listed. On a blank page in the back of the book, these figures were listed: Received-Sunday school money for 1905, \$8.44; added to monies from 1904 \$9.09, total for two years \$17.53.

I was very surprised to find the following names listed among the scholars as having been present most Sundays: M. L. Sink, Flora Carrick Sink, Guy Loyd and David Graham Sink, my grandparents and two uncles. My mother was born in 1906 in the Lottie Miller house which stood on the other side of the Ray Barnhardt house. Since no names appear in the next several record books, I assume the Sinks attended Ursinus until the Baptist church was organized.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

July 4

For today's moment, we are still concerned with our Sunday school. However we move forward 63 years from 1905-06 to 1968-69. Some things are the same and others have changed.

Attendance at Sunday School was (on average) falling in relation to attendance at church as Sunday School was becoming less important in the lives of people. Attendance ranged from the 80's in winter to 40's in July and August. The person who kept attendance records had a mathematician's mind and figured the averages in fractions: in September of 68 the average attendance was $89 \frac{2}{5}$. Occasionally classes met together because of the absence of a teacher or for a special lesson.

On February 16, 1969, we had a 12-inch snow and all classes met in the choir loft for Sunday School and church service.

There were 8 classes including the nursery. No indication is given of who kept nursery. The teachers were Carol Hall, Rena Bost, Marguerite Misenheimer, Helen Lowery, Statler Miller, A. L. Linker and Harold Barrier.

In addition to the trend for fewer church members to also attend Sunday School, several other trends are evident. One trend was a movement away from all male teachers to mostly female. Also a trend toward less organization of the Sunday School and fewer Sunday School officers. By 1968, we were on the unified budget plan and received no Sunday School offerings and had no need for treasurers and less need for secretaries.

Just before we went on the unified budget plan, there was a noticeable difference in the amount of money which was generated by the Sunday School. In 1905, the average offering was less than one dollar, and in 1960, a \$100 offering was not unusual. Due to inflation or prosperity or generosity or all three, an hundred-fold increase.

One thing that is particularly heartwarming is the number of children and grandchildren of former Sunday School officers and teachers who had taken the reins, so to speak. In the church and in most other organizations, the good example of parents does influence the lives of children.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

July 11

We enjoy the blessing of living and worshiping as free people. But our freedoms come at a high price. On more than one occasion, it became necessary for young men and women to go to war to secure and preserve our way of life.

To give some historical perspective to our observance, I would like to read a list of the names of 22 sons of Ursinus Church who served in the military. This list is dated April 4, 1943, 56 years ago and was prepared by Rev. Tosh.

I am happy to report that almost half of these men are still here.

Victor Holshouser	John Hall	Leslie Holshouser
Bill Kluttz	David Holshouser	Charles Barringer
Clyde Ridenhour	Hubert Ridenhour	Fred Ridenhour
J. W. Shuping	A. W. Brown	Joe Ridenhour
James Bonds	John Trexler	Homer Misenheimer
A. L. Linker	W. T. Misenheimer	Ervin McCulloch
Howard Misenheimer	J. C. Ridenhour	James McCombs
Edward Mull		

I would also like to read the names of men who have served in the military and who are members of Ursinus Church today. Will they please stand as their names are read?

Quil Brandon	Harold Earnhardt	Joe Gibson
Randall Geissler	Lex Honeycutt	Jack Taylor
Everett Tucker	Michael Conry	Robert Kluttz
Ed Augustyn	Harold Barrier	

We owe these and all other servicemen and servicewomen a great debt of gratitude.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

July 25

Ursinus Church has much strength and among those strengths, at the top of the list, would be the Church Women. Our congregation, early in its history, developed a positive and progressive attitude toward their role of women in the church. In the early 1900s, Ursinus began electing and appointing women to responsible and important positions in church life and we have benefited greatly from this action ever since.

I will not attempt to name names as time will not permit, but I will take this opportunity to remind us all of the many programs and services provided by the Church Women.

Women of the church have provided most of the Sunday School teachers down through the years and have almost exclusively provided guidance and leadership for our young students.

As you can see from the choir today, women have led in the support of the music ministry of the church. While the men have certainly supported the music program, the women of the church have provided most of the voices.

I did not take time to go through all the records and get a percentage figure, but more women serve on Consistory each decade.

Perhaps because women are, by nature, usually more compassionate and sensitive to human needs, the women of Ursinus have led in providing programs of outreach and service to both members of our fellowship and to the outside world.

Here is a partial list of services and programs which originated with our Church Women or were introduced from outside and greatly supported by them.

Pancake supper (all monies going to a designated charity outside our congregation)

Family Thankoffering
Providing tasty meals for family nights
Meals for bereaved families
Mission studies for the entire church

Concern that shut-ins are remembered
Meals-on-Wheels
World Day of Prayer observance

And support for the following:

Joy and Love Club
Battered Women's Shelter
Rowan CROP Walk
Rowan County Emergency Food Assistance Program

Homeless shelter
Salvation Army
Christmas Happiness Fund

And many other causes, but this will make my point.

I read recently that women control 86% of the personal wealth of the country. It this is also true of Ursinus women, we owe them more than we realize.

We are a stronger, more loving and more caring fellowship because of the contributions made by the women of Ursinus, both as organized groups and as individuals. Keep up the good work, ladies!

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

August 22

A.L. Linker presented these remembrances for the August 22 Centennial Moment.

Things I remember while growing up in this church.

- ◆ You had to attend Sunday School and Church service or stay at home all day. No church, no play.
- ◆ You dressed in your best clothes – mostly knickers with knee socks, a white shirt, sweater, cap and shined shoes.
- ◆ You were quiet in church or you suffered a visit outside. If the preacher stopped his sermon to reprimand you, you lost all of your privileges for a week.
- ◆ In the early days, everyone sat as near to the front of the church as possible when it was cold. The only heat came from a furnace in the basement up through the floor where the piano sits now.
- ◆ Tom Linker, my dad, was the janitor. He built a fire in the furnace for all services. We would build a fire every Saturday morning to get the church warm for Sunday services. Fuel was added by hand every four hours.
- ◆ When it rained for several days, we would sweep and shovel the water that was in the basement to a drain at the back entrance.
- ◆ Sunday School classes were held upstairs in the church building and in partitioned rooms in the basement.
- ◆ Air conditioning was provided by opening the windows in the front of the building and in the back of the building to let air pass through.
- ◆ We always had good music, beginning with the old pump organ and continuing until today with the electronic pipe organ. We have always had a great choir.
- ◆ I became a member of the choir at an early age. My mother, Rose, made me sit with her in the choir to keep me from picking with my sister, Helen. I even sat with her during choir practice.
- ◆ There were those individuals who, for one reason or another, left an unforgettable impression upon us all. Those who could be identified by where they sat each Sunday, or those whom you thought were asleep but who could quote the scriptures of the pastor's sermon, those who always wore dress suits with a white shirt, tie, and top hat, the teachers and leaders who were always here.
- ◆ I remember the time when the church's doors were always open, the annual family dinners with homemade biscuits, yeast rolls, pies, cakes, noodles, and other great dishes.
- ◆ Then there were the many children who filled our classrooms each Sunday, Bible Schools in the summer and their trips to John's River Camp.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

August 29

Marguerite Misenheimer presented these thoughts for the Centennial Moment August 29.

I was born into Ursinus Church fellowship. I have always wondered how my parents chose Ursinus. My mother and father were married at St. Peter's Lutheran Church where her family were life-long members and my father and his family were life-long members of New Gilead Reformed Church near Concord.

I'm glad they chose Ursinus and with the exception of a few years at Corinth Reformed in Hickory and a few years at Zion Reformed in Lenoir, I have been a life-long member of Ursinus.

When I was born, it was customary for all babies to become members of the Cradle Roll of the Sunday School. I have a certificate at home which states that I became a Cradle Roll member at birth. The teacher who signed it was Annie Rinehardt. I have tried to remember the little white church which stood where this church now stands, but the only recollection I have of it was the wedding of Minnie Bost and Clyde Barrier. They were Harold Barrier's parents and Susan Giessler's grand-parents.

The first minister I remember much about was Dr. H. A. M. Holshouser. I remember his coming to visit at our house when he first came to Rockwell. He came from Winston-Salem and his family had not yet moved into our parsonage. He insisted that I should come to Winston-Salem with him and ride on the streetcars with his little girl. Little did we know that this little girl, Ruth, would later become my sister-in-law.

Dr. Holshouser was an old-school type minister, very dignified. His sermons seemed very long to me. My mother and father sat on the 3rd bench from the front on the right side of the church – my father at the end of the bench, then me and then my mother. Going to sleep was forbidden, but at the end of each long sermon, during the prayer, I was allowed to put my head down on my father's knee. What a relief! Sometimes I even caught a few winks.

While I don't remember Dr. Holshouser's sermons, I do remember something about his prayers. He always began, "Our Father in whom we live and move and have our continued being." I always understood what he meant by "living" and "moving" but "continued being" had me puzzled. At least he started making me think.

Two outstanding things happened during the next seven years. The little white church was torn down and the present church was built. While this was happening, we worshiped at the Rockwell School which was located at the end of School Street near where Quil and Louise Brandon live now. At that time, it was both high school and an elementary school.

We also replaced the old parsonage with the one we have now. Our minister and his family moved into our church basement for the duration. They strung wires between the poles and divided it into rooms.

The church women's organization was very strong, but then it was called the Ladies Aid, and they always met in the members' homes. As usual, money raising was one of their projects, and also as usual, serving meals was a favorite. Having no facilities at church for cooking, they would serve meals in various women's homes. All would bring food to that home, which they would put together and serve as a meal for 25 cents. These were well attended.

Please remember that at this time we had only iceboxes to preserve our food. The meals were served on Saturday night and after one of the meals, lots of people were missing from church the next day. I asked my mother what happened. Her answer was "Shh! They're home with tummy aches."

My family always helped decorate the church on Christmas day because our annual Christmas program was held on Christmas night. Each of Rockwell's four churches, Ursinus, St. James Lutheran, Rockwell Baptist and Rockwell Methodist had Christmas programs on different nights. This allowed everyone to attend all of them.

On Saturday night before our Communion Sunday, we always had a brief service called a Preparatory Service.

As a teenager, I remember belonging to a group called a Mission Band, then later to a youth fellowship called Christian Endeavor.

Ursinus Church has always had some great leaders, lay leaders as well as ministers. And I'm so glad I grew up under their influence. But – and this is important– Ursinus Church has around 140 great lay leaders today and I'm looking forward to at least beginning our second hundred years together.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

September 5

Today's Centennial Moment will be a brief look back at a part of the career of our guest minister, Rev. Richard Cheek. He is of course, much more than a guest preacher; he is a former pastor of this church, a long-time friend of many Ursinus people, and a very trusted and respected spiritual counselor. Ursinus Church was Dick Cheek's first pastorate after he finished seminary and I am sure he learned almost as much from Ursinus as Ursinus learned from him.

Rev. Cheek's installation service was here at Ursinus on Sunday, June 4, 1950 at 8:00 p.m. Presiding were Rev. John C. Peeler and Rev. Huitt Carpenter, with the sermon by Dr. Harvey A. Fesperman.

As part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, the church had homecoming on Sunday June 11th at 11:00 with the sermon by Rev. Lonnie A. Carpenter, then president of Southern Synod.

Evidently, Rev. Cheek's first meeting with Consistory as installed pastor was a call meeting on June 5th, as a get-acquainted meeting and to hear some ideas for the Consistory and him to work on together. Rev. Cheek already had plans for Vacation Bible School and was encouraged by the Consistory to proceed with those plans.

As I read through the Consistory minutes from the early fifties, I realized that Ursinus and its new minister were working well together. There were entries concerning the budget, remodeling of porch and basement, gifts to one good cause or another, new members received into the fellowship. It seemed that Ursinus was a church doing what a church ought to do. One entry especially caught my attention. One Christmas, the Consistory voted to give Rev. Cheek a gift of \$200 or an I.O.U. for the same amount. The church, under the leadership of Rev. Cheek and using the experience of Mr. C. A. Cozart, built the Sunday School wing in 1955.

Two of Rev. Cheek's children, Mary Anne and Nancy were born while he and Pat were here in Rockwell. Carolyn remembered Rev. Cheek stating from the pulpit in reference to 2 year old Mary Anne, "If I had her energy, I would be dangerous!"

One cannot do justice to a 51/2-year ministry in just a few moments, so I'll share a few more memories and then close.

Ann Teague and I were checking some records of Rev. Cheek's ministry and found these names of couples he had married: Sarah Barringer and George Wilson, Jack and Juanita Walters, Jack and Jackie Taylor, Carl and Marlene Braun, Harold and Helen Earnhardt and Jean and Carolyn Puckett.

In Baptismal records, these names: Allen Linker, Henry Misenheimer, Gayle Hall, Joyce Misenheimer Smart, Rachel Misenheimer Lapham, Gray Barrier, Hugh Bost, Jr. and Mark Earnhardt. In 1962, he came back to Ursinus baptize Lauren Taylor and Steve and David Puckett.

In November of 1955, Rev. Cheek resigned as pastor of Ursinus to accept a call to Heidelberg Church in Thomasville. Their gain was our loss, and all that know the Cheeks have the fondest of recollections of their years here.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

Sept. 12

Recollections of growing up in Ursinus Church fellowship

By Carolyn Beaver Puckett

I was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1931. My father, W. A. Beaver was a Lutheran and my mother, Ruth Beaver was raised a Methodist. My grandmother was a Reformed. We lived in the middle of the next block to the church and roads got in very bad shape in the wintertime so my family came to Ursinus because we could walk to church and this pleased Grandmother.

My earliest recollections of Sunday School were the opening exercises for children's classes in the church basement with Mrs. R. W. Brown playing the piano.

I especially remember two of my Sunday School teachers, Mrs. Mary Jane Kale Sowers and Veda McCanless. Their skill at teaching not only taught me a lot; they also made me feel very important.

Two persons who made a lasting impression on me were Mrs. Carrie Mae Peeler and Mr. R. W. Barnhardt. They always made it a point to say something nice to you after you had sung or recited or done something special at church.

The weeks at John's River Camp were always exciting and I looked forward to going. I did not especially look forward to giving an oral report about my two weeks to the Adult Sunday School opening when I got back!

I joined the Adult Choir at 15 or 16 years of age and attended choir rehearsal on Thursday night regularly. Mrs. Mary Peeler was director and she expected everyone to be present.

Our Youth Fellowship was rather large, at least throughout most of my teen years. We had two age levels and enjoyed many activities.

My first real adult responsibility at Ursinus was teaching 3 and 4 year-olds during the time I was a day student at Catawba College.

I have been a member of Ursinus Church for all of my life with the exception of my first two years of life. I am very grateful for the love and concern and fellowship that have been shared with me.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

September 19

Memories of my youth at Ursinus Church by Harold Barrier

I was born here in Rockwell on the street which is now Gold Hill Avenue on August 3, 1924. My parents told me that I, along with Christine Misenheimer and Louise Rinehardt were the first babies to be baptized in the new church. The church was not completed, so the baptism took place in the church basement. I really don't remember the occasion!

Among my first memories was my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Rose Linker. The first pastor I can remember was Rev. L. O. Carbaugh. Not only was he a great minister, he was also funny and amusing. During his tenure at Ursinus, he formed a Boy Scout troop, which I joined when I was twelve years old. During those years of course, there were no Scout camps so we would go on one-day trips. The one place I recall was near St. Peter's Lutheran Church at a place called the Linn Hole. The one activity I remember was taking a potato, wrapping it in mud, and then placing it in the campfire to bake. Another fond memory was the annual Nazareth Children's Day, sponsored by Reformed churches in the surrounding area, always held the first Thursday in August. Thousands of people came to Nazareth for the big day.

As I grew older, I attended John's River Valley Camp for several summers. The camp ran for two weeks at a time. I had to save up my money from year to year in order to attend. I really had high paying jobs, making 50 cents per day, but I got to John's River.

During my early teen years, Mrs. Carrie Mae Peeler started a young male chorus. I know you will be surprised, but I was in this chorus. Somehow, somewhere along the way I lost my "tune carrier," so that's why I turned to cooking.

One really distinct memory was of a hilarious event at a summer church service. Being summer, all of the church windows were open and a fly decided to join the service. This fly was intent on bothering the head of one man, known to all of us as "Uncle Lum" (Holshouser). Rose Misenheimer, brother-in-law of Lois Misenheimer, was sitting directly behind Uncle Lum and he watched that pesky fly just as long as he could stand it. He then promptly picked up a hymnbook and smacked poor Uncle Lum on the top of the head, good and proper. Besides almost breaking the man's head, the service was almost broken up with laughter.

P.S. I don't know how the fly made out!

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

September 26

Memories of Ursinus United Church of Christ by J. Spencer Bost

From the time I was a young boy until I grew I grew into a man, I saw a lot of changes at Ursinus United Church of Christ. I saw the old church torn down and the new church built. I have been on the Consistory as an Elder and Deacon and served as Trustee many times.

The first church remodeling I remember was done to open the room under the bell tower. This room was first used as a library for the church and community. I have seen three heating systems put into our church: hot air, hot water, and air conditioning.

I served on the committee when the remodeling of our new sanctuary and pulpit was done.

Dr. Leslie Holshouser's Boys' Sunday School class raised a lot of money for our church chimes and he gave the marble plaque located on the front stoop of the church that lists our former pastors. Four men from Rockwell Radio and Electric Company and I were responsible for mounting the plaque.

I think I am the oldest man in our congregation.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

October 3

My memories of Ursinus by Jackie Bost Taylor

I was baptized June 30, 1930 by Rev. L. O. Carbaugh in Ursinus Church.

My earliest memory of church was attending "Mission Band" at which I contributed a dime for missions and sang "Red and yellow, black and white; they are precious in His sight." I also remember Rev. Carbaugh being at a lot of family dinners at my Grandmother Bost's. It seemed she always fed preachers!

In my early years, I was impressed with the elderly gentlemen in the church. Mr. J. D. McCombs, or "Uncle Joe" as my father called him, sat on the pew behind us. I especially remember Mr. J. W. Peeler, Mr. H. W. Barnhardt and Mr. Thomas Rinehart (Mr. Peeler and Mr. McCombs were charter members). I thought these men held rank next to God, so behavior in church was not a problem!

Joining the church has a special memory as I was confirmed March 28th, Easter of 1941. It was also my birthday. Rev. A. R. Tosh was our minister. When we left the sanctuary that day, we walked out in snow. I had on new white shoes and thought how strange they looked in snow.

My teenage Sunday School class was taught by Margaret Conry and was held upstairs in the Sunday School side of the sanctuary. Mrs. Conry was a great teacher. She had the class in her home many times to make candy and just have fun.

When Rev. Richard Cheek came, we still had Sunday School in partitioned rooms in the basement. The toddler class had the infamous "sand table." Some national church educators thought a sand table was necessary for every church so children could express themselves. Callie Kluttz was the teacher for this class. Many a toddler went home with sandy hair and hands.

Rev. Cheek soon decided there must be a better answer for toddlers so the sand table soon disappeared and the educational building was built.

I have a special memory for Dick Cheek as he married Jack and I August 17, 1952. The wedding was at 8:00 and all the candles in the windows melted and fell over. These were the days of no air conditioning.

Another special time was the night the whole congregation surprised Rev. Guy Fisher with a new van to transport his son Jeffrey. It was a well-kept secret and the congregation worked hard to raise the money to purchase it. When the Fisher family saw the van, they cried for joy and many in the congregation shed tears, too.

Ursinus will always hold special memories for me because it is the only church I have been a member of except a brief one-year period at First Church, Landis. I hope Ursinus continues its mission with vigor into the next century and beyond.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

October 10

My memories of Ursinus *by Betty Barringer Honeycutt*

My fellowship with Ursinus began after my family moved to Rockwell from Salisbury when I was three years old. Sunday School was held in the basement with Mrs. Mary Jane Kale, Mrs. Carrie Mae Peeler, Mrs. Rose Linker, and Mrs. V. McCanless as some of the teachers.

Each year at Christmas the youth would present a program in the sanctuary. Somewhere there is a snapshot of me in one of those programs with my bare foot sticking out from under my robe. How embarrassed I was!

I have many happy memories of events at Ursinus. Here are a few:

- ◆ Summer meant Nazareth Children's Home Day and when you were old enough being assigned a chore.
- ◆ A weeks' revival, with services every night and a guest minister
- ◆ Sunday School picnics at a local lake
- ◆ Bible School first as a participant and then as a helper. I remember especially the summer Mary Louie Peeler was the "baby-sitter" for Gray Barrier and our son Len, so Jenny and I could help with Bible School.
- ◆ John's River Camp and the summer the mattresses in our cabin were filled with straw and we all got the "itch" after we came home
- ◆ Junior choir, directed by Mrs. Mary Peeler, who instilled in me the love and joy of music
- ◆ Finally being old enough to join the Senior choir
- ◆ Being allowed to sit in the balcony
- ◆ Helping Mother to care for the church when she was co-sexton and sweeping water out of the basement – yes, water came into the basement way back then!
- ◆ Attempting to teach a class of teenage girls and being asked if I kissed on the first date. Once I replied – and added, "But I later married him."
- ◆ Ursinus has been an important part of my life. I was confirmed here, Lex and I were married here in 1947 and when we retired and moved back to Rockwell in 1986, returning to Ursinus was like coming home.

Centennial Highlights

- ◆ January 24 Centennial Kickoff Guest speaker, Rev. Guy Fisher
- ◆ February 7 Guest speaker, Rev. Charles Sigler
- ◆ May 2 Guest speaker, Rev. James Cress
- ◆ June 20 Old Fashioned Sunday
- ◆ September 5 Guest speaker, Dr. Richard Cheek
- ◆ October 17 Heritage Day Guest speaker, Rev. Guy Fisher
Awarding honor of Pastor Emeritus upon
Rev. Guy Fisher and Dr. Richard Cheek

Rev. Dr. Thomas Hamilton served as Intentional Interim Pastor of Ursinus during the Centennial year.

